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J. G. PINKEY, PURLISHED

MARRER HILL . - MISSOUR A DIAMOND two and a quarter inche og was recently found in South Africa. All the crowned heads o Europe are bidding against each other for this wonderful jewel, but it will ubtiess be carried off by some Amer ican hotel clerk.

Ir is a curious fact that, familiar as the general public is with the newspaper, the idea still prevails that the newspaper business is a kind of home onary enterprise, whose object is the intellectual and moral advancement of the people.

MAIL carriers in Washington make their rounds on bicycles, and the plan is said to be successful. Washington, with its hard, smooth pavements o asphalt, is the wheelman's paradise, and there, if anywhere, the scheme of mounting carriers on a wheel is feas-Ible. But it would hardly answer in other citles.

It is a rather curious fact while the survivors of the war of 1812 consist of 413 soldiers to 8,610 soldiers' widows, the survivers of the war of Mexico show up 17,158 soldiers to 6,764 solwidows. In the former case the widows outnumber the men more than twenty to one, in the latter the men outnumber the widows three to

It long ago became apparent that so long as the Indians were to be treated as wards they should be massed at a few places, where they could be easily and economically guarded. As it is and economically guarded. As it is now they are scattered over thousands of miles of country, and it is practically impossible for an army the size of that at present mainarmy the size of that at present maintained in America to keep an efficient watch upon them.

DESERTIONS from the army are decreasing slowly, but as the benefits of the new law become more evident, the evil of running away from Uncle Sam's care will dimfuish. About nine men in every hundred deserted last year, which was a much larger proportion than dodged when the civil war made doing one's duty most dangerous. There is no glory in doing mental work in garrisons, and this demoralizes the men who do not see the true nobility of the slightest true service.

PROF. SHALER has small faith in the permanence of the rock gases which have become so valuable commercially in western Pennsylvania and the neighboring states. At the existing rate of demand for these light and heat giving gases, he says, it is doubtful if in fifty years from the present time they will have any place in our economies, and in the regions of most extended consumptions. It seems quite certain that the exhaustion of the store will be accomplished in much

In nothing is our journalism more American than in the opportunity it gives to the people for expressing their grievances or for discussing matters that affect the well-being of the community. While the press avoids taking sides in anything that hints of private quarrels' the humblest citizen, if he have just cause of offense against a public or private corporation, however large and influential, is sure of having a hearing if he appeals to the press. And in many cases the abuse is remedied simply from the fact that it is in the power of the individual to appeal to the press.

A CRITICISM on current life was made the other day by a New Yorker, whose ideas are always worth hearing, that the publicas a rule is prone to be interested in things afar. We ignore" the extremes of misery and poverty as they exist in our own cities, and are eager to listen to delectable tales of the cannibals of the South Sea Islands. We are not especially anxious to know the true inwardness of life or conditions in Alaska, but we pour out libations and sing pmans of joy if we may become familiar with the Dark Continent. It would seem, indeed, that "every ship is a romantic object save the one in which we sail."

In another year the proposed railroad from Jaffa to Jerusalem will be built and in operation, and then the question whether Mohammedans shall continue to hold the Holy City, or whether it shall pass under the away of Greeks, Latins or Protestants, will acquire a new interest. The orthodox Jews of Europe, who adhere to the literal interpretation of the Old Scriptures, believe that Jerusalem is reserved, not for Greek Christians, nor Latia Christians, nor Protest int Christians, but for themselves -and they confidently await the time when the Jews shill return from all the ends of the earth to re-occupy Palestine, and the City of David, rebuilt, repopulated and beautified, shall be "the joy of the whole earth."

WE are all struggling here for bare existence, and the true stress of the struggle is not so much against the powers of nature as against one another. It is competition that cuts our throats, fills our prisons and asyluma. augments our poor rate. It is the vain and restless human heart, the insatiable and feverish human brain that eros us to these lifetimes of empty oil. Empty - because, when all is ose, we have as bost but saved our-

#### A QUEER RACE.

BY WILLIAM WESTALL

CHAPTER XL-CONTINUED. "Why didn't you call me?" he said, re proachfully. "You must be betterired an hungry. Go and get something to eat and then turn in for an hour or two. don't think we shall either of us get much Why!"

"There is going to be a change of weather. The glass is going down fast, and clouds are gathering to windward. But we shall not get it just yet. When you have had your grub and your sleep, we must reef the foresail. Then we shall be set I then?"

must reef the foresall. Then we shall be safe, I think."

I acted promptly on old Tom's suggestion, for the sir and the work had made me both hungry and sleepy.

When I returned from my snooze, the wind had risen considerably, and blew in fitful gusts; the sun went down red, amid a mass of ominous-looking clouds, and, has Bolsover said, there was every likelihood of a dirty night. The time had come to reduce our spread of canvas, and the ship being under a parent foretopsail and jib, we lowered and reefed the former without difficulty. The boatswain then made all difficulty. The boatswain then made all snug, battened down the hatches, and brought a suit of oliskin and a pair of sea boots for himself, and another for me, put food, water, and grog within reach, and lighted the lanterns. When he had done all that was necessary, or, rather, all that he could, he joined me at the wheel, for, as he said, it would take two to steer, and all little enough.

And so it proved. The wind rose every

and so it proved. The wind rose every moment, and though we had so little sail set, the ship went through the water like an Atlantic liner at full speed. Then it lulled a little, and the rain came down as it only can come down in the tropics, rat-tling on the deck like discharges of musketry, and tumbling out of the scuppers in cascades. From time to time there came a tremendous clap of thunder, the sky was ablaze with lightning, which brought every rain, by keeping the sea down somewhat, probably prevented us from being pooped. When morning broke the rain was still falling, and the wind blowing in strong gusts; the "Diana" was scudding before it, and we were still both at the wheel; and except for intervals of a few minutes, one or other of us snatched a morsel o food or took a pull at the bottle of half-water grog which Tom had put under the

binnacle, we remained at the wheel all that What distance we made in this time we had no means of exactly computing; but when the wind began to fall off, Tom tried our rate of sailing with the patent log, and found it to be eight knots; but our average speed during the thirty-six hours the ga lasted must have been much more, and we probably ran not less than four hundred niles. Where we were we could form only the very vaguest idea, for our course had been most erratic, the wind shifting

continually.

When the storm abated, and there was comise of better weather, Bolsover sug-

gested that I should turn in. "I am more used to this sort of thing than you are," he said. "I can stand it awhile longer; but you are about used up, I think. Lie down for an hour or two, I will waken you up when I want you."
I required no second bidding. I was ut terly spent, and only half conscious. Withundressing, I threw myself on the bunk in the captain's cabin, and almost before my head touched the pillow was

When I awoke, as it seemed to me an hour or so later, the sun was shining brightly, and the boatswain lay asleep on

the floor. "Halloo!" I thought. "Has old Tom de-But when I looked out I saw that the sen was perfectly calm-not a breath of air ruffled its glassy surface—and the "Diana" ay there, as still and motionless as painted ship upon a painted occan." Clearly no need for a man at the wheel, and Tom had done quite right to take his

rest without interrupting mine.

After a wash and a walk round the ship, went to the galley, kindled the fire, made obscouse and pea soup, and when all was comiy returned to the cabin to look after Tom. He was just opening his eyes,

"Have you had a good sleep?" I asked. "Very; and you?" "Oh, pretty well. I must have had three or four hours, and if I had not been so hungry I should have gone on awhile long

"Three or four hours! Why, bless you Mr. Erle, you have slept more like

"Nonsense, Bolsover! I know better."
"Well, then, the sun is going wrong. It was a good deal past noon when I turned n, and"-glancing at the sun-"it cannot be much past eleven now. Yes, Mr. Ede, you have slept something like thirty hours, and me about twenty-four—and a good thing, too. We wanted it. When it

min I knew as the ship coul I take care of herself, so I just lashed the wheel amil-ships, lad I myself down on the cabin floor just as I was, and let you go on with your jast as I was, and let you go on with your sleep. And now let us have some grub, for I am most terrible sharp-set, and that lob-sconse smalls as sweet as a posy. We may take our ease a bit now, Mr. Erle. This is a calm as will last, this is."

"How long will it last, do you think." night, may be three weeks. I have hear! of calms in these latitu'ics—we must be somewhere about the doldrums—I've heard of 'em lasting six and seven weeks."
"A pleasant pro p c'! Why, we shall be nearly frizzled! I would rather have a

That's a sentiment as I should say amen to, if we had a rather more powerful erev, Mr. Erle; but with a ship's company of two, officers and passengers included, I would not pray for a red; though I might whistle for a wind. With our small spread of canvas a light breeze would not do us much good, and it would not be safe to spread more, even if we could. But I'm in no hurry, Mr. Erle-I'm in no hurry. We've plenty of grab and water aboard, and I'm quite content to abide in these latitudes awhile longer, for it is hereabouts, or, if not hereabouts, a bit further south —that I expect to light on the 'Santa An-

"You old idjot?" I was going to say; but of wanting to hurt the foolish fellow's salings or fall out with him, I merely asked why on earth he expected to find the tremanre-ship in that particular spot, es-pecially as we did not know within a thous-

of miles where we were.
"We are in the doldrums," he answer
sentily: "there can be no doubt abset and I have always said as if

he log-book, or rather, made an entry in a very day, for there was very little to set lown. Had I not done so I abould have out count of time, so like was one day to mother. Now and then I went into the

another. Now and then I were into an engine-room, and by getting up steam, starting and stopping the engine, I familiarized myself with its working. After awhile, I became a fairly expert engineer, and had our coal bunkers not been so nearly empty, I abould have shipped the acrew and steamed in the direction whither

bearly empty, I should have salpped the screw and steamed in the direction whither I thought lay the nearest land. Bolsover pottered about the ship, mend-ed sails, spliced ropes, washed the decks, smoked, and slept; yet be got very weary, and one day proposed that, by way of di-version, we should make war on the rats. asked how he would do it, seeing that we ad neither cats, traps, dogs, nor ferrets, "I will make the beggars drown them-

selves," he said.

And then he disclosed his plan. Rats, he explained, cannot live without water, and this was the reason why there were so many of them about the water-lanks, where they slaked their thirst by licking up the drippings and droppings. But as there was so much less water drawn than formerly, there were fewer drippings, and the rats being for that reason extremely dry, water would make a splendid bait. All that was necessary would be to take buck-ets, put a few inches of water at the bottom—mixed with molasses to prevent them from jumping out—fix long strips of wood on the sides, so balanced that when the rats ran along them to get at the water they would fall into the buckets.
"Very well," I said; "try it. But in my

opinion the less you have to do with the rats the better. If they have not got the rats the better. If they have not got the fever—I wish they had—they can give it."

"Oh, I have no fear. I shall not take the fever. I never thought I should. Besides, that storm must have blown it all out of

So Tom erranged his buckets, put them down in the hold near the water-tanks, and awaited the result with great expecta-

An hour later he came up in great glee, bringing one of his buckets.
"Look here!" he exclaimed. "And there's more in the others." In the bottom of the bucket was a writh-ing mass of rats. The water had not been

leep enough to drown all of them, and the survivors, entangled in the molasses, were fighting desperately over the bodies of their "Poor wretches!" I said. "Put them out

of their misery, Tom!"
"Poor wretches! Put them out of their nisery! I would rather put them into a bit more. Isn't it them as did all the mis chief? But here goes! I'll chuck them into the water and let the sharks catch 'em And with that Tom went to the taffrail.

and turned the bucket upside-down, where-upon all the rats, dead and alive—all save one, a flerce-looking, gray-whiskered vetfell pell-mell into the sea.
"Get out, you big devil!" said the boatswain, seizing it by the tail.

But instead of getting out, the rat twist-

ed round and fixed its long, sharp teeth into its captor's thumb. Tom dropped the bucket like a hot potato, and catching the creature by the neck, choked it off, and sent it spinning. -, it hurts!" he exclaimed, pop-

"You had better go and bathe it with hot water," I said. "Rat-bites are nasty things sometimes."
"I don't think it's worth while. I'll put

ping the wounded thumb into his mouth

a bit of pitch on it. It's the best plaster I had told I know. I never thought a rat could bite so said was: keen. That gray-whiskered beggar's teeth were like pins and needles." The inci lent made the boatswain more Inveterate against the rats than ever. He converted all the buckers in the ship into

traps, and by sunset he had caught several dozens. He took care, however, before throwing them overboard, to see that they were properly drowned, and even then he prevent any possibility of a second bite. But the rats, though they perished. had their revenue. The next morning Bolsover was very ill. The thumb was inflamed and exceedingly painful, and he had all the appearance of sickening for yellow fever. I was seriously niarmed, for, despite his cran; about the "Sunta Anna," old Tom was a thorough semma and a very good fellow. You cannot be thrown my with a man (at any rate, I cannot) without getting to like him-unless he is absolute-ly repulsive-and I had got to like the boatswain. Besides, what would become of me if I should be left alone on board a blg ship in mid-ocean, utterly ignorant of my wher abouts, only just able to steer,

and hardly knowing one sail from another?

If it were possible to keep old Tom alive,
I meant to do it, although, judging by my recent experience, the olds against hi covery were hundreds to one. On the other hand, the very fact that he had remained so long invulnerable showed that he possessed great resisting power, and rendered it probable that he would make a tourher fight for his life than the others had done.

The first thing was to get my patient to keep his bed, which for a time he obstinately refused to do. To confess that he was ill would not only have touched his ridienious, but would have gone far to falsify his predictions. So he pretended that his illness was a mere passing indisposition—"a bit of a headache"—made light of his swo'len thumb, and insisted on getting up and helping to prepare break-

But the strongest will cannot long bear up under severe local pain and the all-pervading agonies of fever, and it was not long before Bolsover confessed himself beaten,

and took to his bed. and took to his bed,
"I never thought I should be III," he
murmured, "but it won't be much. I shall
be well in a day or two, I know I shall.
You were right, Mr. Erle; I shouldn't have meddled with them rats-hang 'emi I don't care how soon we get out of this ship.

Tuere's a curse on her." Tom must have been very bad to own himself in the wrong. It was an evil sign, and made me almost despair of his recov-

cry.
"I had lately read a second time, in some instances a third time, the medical books in the captain's cabin, and the knowledge in the captain's cabin, and the knowledge in the captain's cabin, and captain's in the captain's cabin, and the knowledge thus acquired, an I my own observation, that given me certain ideas as to treatment of yellow fever, which I now proceeded to put into practice. Medicine having produced no effect in previous cases, I determined to try semathing else.

One of the most characteristic symptoms of the mulady is intense heat, the patient's temporarup being often se high as one has a seminary to the medical process.

patient thought otherwise. He quite be lived I had cured him said that he owed me his life, and, in the fullness of his heart, protested that, whether I helped him to find the "Santa Anna" or not, he should give me half her cargo of gold and silver.

"Thank you, Tom," I said, laughing.
"Til take it, with all my heart; and it will be the lignest fee aver paid to a constant. be the biggest fee ever paid to a quack doc-tor since the world began, and that is say-

ing a great deal."
"There is nothing to laugh at," swered the boatswain, who could never bear being chaffed about his craze. "There is nothing to laugh at, and I'll make a man of you yet, Mr. Erle; never fear! You will be the richest man in Liverpool one of these days."
But Tom did not get better either very

soon or very easily. He lay in his ham-mock three weeks, and rose from it a yel-low-skinned, intern-jawed ghost, hardly able to put one leg before the other. "I shall not be of much use when the change comes," he said, as I supported him to a Southampton chair, under an awning we had rigged up a short time be-fore he fell ill.

"What change?" "Change of weather, to be sure. And it s bound to come soon. How long have we "we have been becalmed five weeks; but as to how long we have been here I would not venture to offer an opinion. I am not

sure whether we are here!" "You are getting beyond me now, Mr. Erle. Not sure whether we are Where else should we be?" "I mean that we are moving. At any rate, I think so. I happened this morning to throw a cork overboard at the stern, and now it is at the bows."

"There must be a current, then."
"It looks so; and if the cork, moves must the ship, though not so fast."
"You may soon find out whether
moves. Make a trial with the log." "A happy thought! It never occurred to e. I will do it at once."

And I did. The "Diana" was progressing through the water at the rate of a "If we have been going at this speed all

along for the last five weeks," I said, makone eight hundred and forty miles."

"I don't think we have been going at this speed all along. When I fell ill it was as dead a calm as it could be, and as hot as blazes. And now it is cooler-I am sure it is cooler. Don't you think so?"

"I know it is. I look at the thermome ter every day, and the average temperature is from seven to ten de croes lower than it

TO BE CONTINUED.

#### Sorrowful Stuggins' "Corpse Cure."

Curb and Corridor of the St. Paul Pioneer Press has an aunt who lives in one of the four-points of the compass -divisions of the pretty city of Brook-field, Mass., and the old lady, who has a keen sense of humor, loves to difate upon the queer people whom she has for neighbors, and some of their odd savings and doings. Here are a couple

her anecdotes:
"I had a female acquaintance who lived at the foot of the hill in North Brookfield, on whose slope was a small graveyard. At the bottom of the slope was the well which supplied her with water. One day a friend from Boston, a doctor, visited her, and when he took a walk after dinner was horrified at discovering the dire possibilities of the drainage from the location of the drainage from the tombs into the well. He rushed into the house to remonstrate, but after he had told his horrible tale all the woman

"Oh, I reckon 'twon't hurt me anv. Them's mos'ly my relations that's buried up yonder.'

"We used to call him Sorrowful Stuggins, because he took on so when his first wife died. He built a vault on his own place—it was nigh the skirts of put in it so that the coffin could easily e seen. But Stuggins got tired loneliness after a couple of years of widowering, and married a woman from a neighboring farm. The second wife had a temper of her own, and it wasn't long before she gave Stuggins a taste of it. So what did that man do but go to an undertaker and get a glass top put in his first wife's coffin. number two got cantankerons he'd lead her to the vault and push her down over the opening, say-

ing: There, you cross-grained female, take a look at the only woman I ever

"It d dn't take many doses of that sort of medicine to take pretty much all the cantanker out of the

two, and we used to call it the 'corpse

## He Was a Gentleman Farmer.

Col. Maynadier of Ann Arundel County, Maryland, was a large slave owner, says the Baltimore Herald. The Colonel spent a good deal of his time away from home. One time on his return be took a drive over his property, and on his return met a small colored

"Whom do you belong to, boy?" the "Why, sah, I-I-'longs to Col. May-"Who's he?" inquired the Colonel, to

ee what the chap would say.
"H—h—he's a farmer, sah," What sort of a farmer?"

"Go-gentleman farmer, sah."
"Gentleman farmer!" repeated the Colonel, "What kind of a farmer's zentleman farmer?" "W-well, sah," spoke up the colored y, "h-be's a farmer dat don't raise bacco, sah, a-and has to buy hi

The Colonel enjoyed the joke, it is said, and afterward told it upon himself with much amusement.

## The Dog Was Astonished.

A singular electric-wire accident was seen the other day in Boston. The attention of passers-by was attracted by the barking of a red Irish setter to by the barking of a red Irish setter to an English sparrow, which was perched upon an electric-light wire high above the beast's head. The animal had eviutly been amusing himself in the uitless sport of chasing the bird, and hen it had taken refuge on high had esticavored to get some consolation out of yelping fustily. The day was windy and the wire swayed to and fro. e spurrow apparently enjoying its the bird came in contact with anothor the bird came in contact with another wire near by. Then, in the twinkling of an eya, the unlucky sparrow
came tembling down stone dead at the
feet of the noisy dog, who was so asmethodated at this smillen turn of affairs
tint he didn't offer to pick the creature up, but simply stopped barking
and stood etsring at his prey in astonlament.

guests brought the pitcher. She re-if these articles.

PEACE AND GOODWILL

#### DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON ON THE NATIVITY OF THE SAVIOUR.

Thoughts Suggested by the Sur stances Connected With Christ's Coming on Earth.—The Significance of the First Christmas Gifts

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Dec. 28 .- Dr. Tal age's sermon today was appropriate to the season. Its subject was the Christman Jubilee. A crowd which filled the Acadmy of Music in every part listened to it the morning and another enormous audience througed the New York Academy of Music to hear it in the evening. His text was Luke 2:15, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem."

Amid a thousand mercies we give other holiday congratulations. By long established custom we exhort each other to healthful merriment. By gift, by Christmas trees which blossom and fruit in one night, by early morning surprise, by clusters of lighted candles, by children's procession, by sound of instruments some times more blatant than musical, we wake up the night and prolong the day. The event commemorated is the gladdest of the centuries. Christ's cradle was as wonderful as his cross. Persuade me of the first and I am not surprised at the last. The door by which he entered was as treme dous as the door by which he went out.

Christ's advent was in the hostelry called Christ's advent was in the hostelry called the house of Chim Ham; the night with diamonded finger pointing down to the place; the door of heaven set wide open to look out; from orchestral batons of light dripping oratorios of the Messiah; on low-est doorstep of heaven the minstrels of God discoursing glory and goodwill. Soon after the white-bearded astrologists kneel and from leathern pouch chink the skekels, and from open sacks exhale the frankincense and rustle out the bundles of myrrh. The loosened star; the escaped doxology of ce lestials; the chill December night affush with May moon; our world a lost star. and another star rushing down the sky that night to becken the wanderer home again, shall yet make all nations keep Christmas.

Are there no new lessons from the story not yet hackneyed by oft repeatal? Oh, yes, Know in the first place, it was a sidereal appearance that led the way. Why not a black cloud in the shape of a hand or inger pointing down to the sacred birthplace? A cloud means trouble, and the world had had trouble enough. Why not a shaft of lightning quivering and flashing and striking down to the sacred birthplace: Lightning means destruction, a shattering and consuming power, and the world wanted no more destruction.

But it was a star, and that means joy, that means hope, that means good cheer, that means ascendancy. A star! That means creative power, for did not the morning stars sing together when the portfolio of the worlds was opened? A star! That means defense, for did not the stars fight in their courses against Siscra and for the Lord's people? A star! That means brilliant continuance, for are not the righteous to shine as the stars forever and ever? A star! That means the open-ing of eternal joy. The day star in the heart. The morning star of the Re

deemer.
Not a black cloud of threat, but a gleaming star of hope is our glorious Christian-ity. One glimpse of that stellar appearance kindled up the soul of the sick and dying college student until the words flashed from his pale fingers and the star seemed to pour its light from his white lips as Kirke White wrote these immortal

When marshalled on the nightly plain. The glittering hosts bestud the sky, One star alone of all the train. Can fix the sinner's wandering eye. Hark, bark to God, the chorus breaks, From every host, from every gein, But one alone, the Saylour speaks. It is the Star of Bethlehen Once on the raging seas I rode, The storm was loud, the nigh

foundering bark: Deep horror then my vitals froze, Death struck, I ceased the tide to stem When suddenly a star arose

It was the Star of Bethelem Notice also in this scene, that other worlds seem to honor our Lord and master. Bright star of the night, wheel on thine orbit. "No," said the star, "I must come nearer and I must bend and I must watch and see what you do with my Jesus. Another world that night joined our world That star made a bow obcisance. I sometimes hear people talk of Christ's dominion as though it were to be merely the few thousand mises of the world's circumference; but I believe the millions and the billions and quadrillions of worlds are all inhabited-if not by such reatures as we are, still such creatu God designed to make, and that all thes worlds are a part of Christ's dominion Isaac Newton, and Kepler, and Hersche only went on Columbus voyage to find these continents of our King's domain.

But this scene also impresses me with the fact that the wise men of the East came to Christ. They were not fools, they were not imbedies. The recor-distinctly says that the wise men came to Christ. We say they were the magi, or they were the alchemists, or they were the astrologists, and we say it with depreciating accentuation. Why they were the most splendid and magnificent men of the century. They were the naturalists and the scientists. They knew all that was known. You must remember that as-trology was the mother of astronomy, and that alchemy was the mother of chemistry and because children are brighter than the mother you do not despise the mother. It was the lifelong business of these as-trologers to study the stars. Twenty-two hundred and fifty years before Christ was

born the wise men knew the procession of the equinoxes and they had calculated the orbit and the return of the comets. Pro-fessor Smith declares that he thinks they understood the distance of the sun from the earth. We find in the book of Job that the men of olden times did not sup-pose the world was flat as some have said, but that he knew and the men of his time knew the world was globular. The pyra mids were built for astrological and as tronomical study. Then the alchemists spent their lives in the study of metals and gases and liquids and solids, and in filling the world's library with their wonde ful discoveries. They were vastly wise men who came from the east, and tradition says the three wisest came, Caspar, a young man; Balthazar, a man in mid-life, and Melchior, an octogenarian. The three wisest men of all the century. They came

to the manger. So it has always been—the wisest m come to Christ, the brainiest men come to the manger. Who was the greatest metaphysician this country over produ Jonathan Edwards, the Christian. Jonathan Edwards, the Christian. Who was the greatest astronomer of the world? Herschel, the Christian. Who was the greatest poet ever produced? Milton, the Christian. Who was the wisest writer on law? Blackstone, the Christian. Why is it that every college and university in the land has a chapel? They must have a place for the wise men to worship. So Daniel Webster came to the manger. The wise men of the East followed by the wise men of the West.

men of the West.

Know also in this scene that it was a winter month that God chose for his Son's nativity. Had it been the month of May — that is the season of blossoms. Had he been born in the month of June—that is the season of roses. Had he been born in

month of July—that is the season of tharvests. Had he been born in the th of September—that is the season of orchards. Had he been born in the th of October—that is the season of

inter menth.

Notice also a fact which no one seems to obtice, that this Christ was born among the seep and the cattle, and the horses, and se camels, in order that he might be an the camels, in order that he might be an alleviating influence to the whole creation. It means mercy for overdriven, underfed, poorly sheltered, galled and mattreated and poorly sheltered, galled and maitreated ani-mal creation. Hath the Christ who com-pared himself to a dove no care for the crusities of pigeon shooting? Hath the Christ who compared himself to a lamb no care for the sheep that are tied and contorted, and with neck over the sharp older of the butcher's cart, or the cattle contorted, and with neck over the sharp edge of the butcher's eart, or the cattle train in hot weather from Omaha to New York, with no water—fifteen hundred miles of agony? Hath the Christ whose tax was paid by a fish, the coin taken from its mouth, no care for the tossing fins in the fish market? Hath the Christ who strung with his own hand the nerves of dor and with his own hand the nerves of dog and cat no indignation for the horors of vivi-section? Hath the Christ who said, "Go to the ant," no watchfulness for the transfix-ed insects? Hath the Christ who said, "Behold the fowls of the air," himself never beheld the outrages heaped upon the brute creation which cannot articulate its grief? This Christ came not only to lift the human race out of its trouble, but to lift out of pang and hardship the animal crea-tion. In the glorious millennial time the child shall lead the lion and play with the ockatrice only because brute and reptile shall have no more wrongs to avenge. To alleviate the condition of the brute creation Christ was born in the cattle pen. The first bleat of the lamb of God heard amid the tired flocks of the Bethlehem shepherds The white horse of eternal victory stable

in a barn, But notice also in this account the three Christmas presents that are brought to the manger, Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Gold to Christ—that means all the affluence of the world surrendered to him. The gold for Christ, the silver for Christ, the jewels for Christ. Australia, Nevada and Gol-conda for Chirst. The bright, round, beautiful jewel of a world set like a soli

taire on the bosom of Christ.

But I notice that these wise men also took out from their sacks the myrrh. The cattle came and snuffed at it. They did not eat it because it was bitter. The pun-gent gum resin of Abyssinia called myrrh brought to the feet of Christ. That means bitterness. Bitter betrayal, bitter cution, bitter days of suffering, nights of woe. Myrrh, That is what they put into his cup when he was dying. Myrrh. That is what the Marys twisted in the shroud of a crucified Christ. The myrrh. Oh, the height, the depth, the length, the breadth of the Saviour's sorrow. Well might the wise men shake out the myrrh.

But I notice also from another sack they

shake out the frankineense. Clear up to the rafters of the barn the air is filled with

perfume, and the hostiers and the camel drivers in the furthest part of the building inhale it, and it floats out on the air until passers-by wonder who in that rough place could have by accident dropped a box of abulaster. Frankincense, they burned in the censer temple. Frankincense, worship. Frankincense, That is to fill all the homes, and all the churches, and all the capitals, and all the nations, from cellar of stalactited cave clear up to the silvery rafters of the starlit dome. Frank-That is what we shake out from hearts today, so that the nostrils of Christ once crimsoned with the hemorrhage of the cross, shall be flooded with the perfume of a world's adoration. Frankincense, Frankincense in song, and sermon, and offertory, and handshaking, and decoration. Praise him, mountains and hills, valleys and seas, and skies and earth and cyclone with your trumpets, n lights with your flaming ensign, morning with your castles of cloud and evening with your billowing clouds of sunset. Do you know how they used to which the censer in the olden times, and what it was made of? Here is a metal pan and the handle by which it was held. In the inside of this metal pan were put living coals, on the top of them a perforated cov-er. In a square box the frankincense was In a square box the fra brought to the temple. This frankincense was taken out and sprinkled over the living coals, and then the perforated cover was put on, and when they were all ready for vorship, then the cover was lifted and free this censer and from all the other censers and the perfumed smoke arose until it hung amid all the folds and dropped amid all the altars, and then rose in great columns of praise outside the temple, rising clear up toward the throne of God. So we have two censers today, of Christmas frankin-cense. Here is the one censer of earthly frankincense. On that we put our thanks for the mercies of the past year, the mer-On that we put our thanks

cies of all our past lives, individual mer-cies, family mercies, social mercies, nation al mercies, and our hearts burning with gratitute send aloft the incense of praise toward the throne of Christ. Bring on more incense, and higher and higher let the columns of praise ascend. Let them wreathe all these pillars and hover amid all these rches and then soar to the throne. But here is the other censer of heavenly thanksgiving and worship. Let ther bring all their frankinscence—the cherubim bring theirs and the scraphim theirs and the on theirs and all the eternities theirs, and let them smoke with fume on this heavenly censer per the cloud canopies the throne of God. Then I take these two censers—the censer of earthly frankincense and the censer o heavenly frankincense—and I swing them before the throne, and then I clash them together in one great Hallelujah unto him to whom the wise men of the East brough the gold, and the myrrh and the frankir Blessed be his glorious name

On a Connecticut railroad is a newsboy eighty-two years old. He was formerly a school teacher. The Sioux of South Dakota are dying

rapidly of consumption and throat and chest diseases. A Georgia plantation has a pear tree measuring ten feet in circumference and over three feet in diameter.

In the Gila Valley district of Arizona Territory it is proposed to plant 5,000 acres to oranges this winter. A large number of carriages in cities are now supplied with rubber tires to prevent violent joiting and deafening

clatter. The rhododendron plantation of Mr. Foliansbee in the town of Fitzwilliam, N. H., is one of the floral wonders of New England.

In the French Jardin des Plantes is a peculiar South American lizard, re-sembling a "flying toad," which coils itself up like a hedgehog when dis-turbed.

Au instance of just retribution is found in the case of the man who in-vented the pigs-in-clover puzzle. He has been sent to au insane asylum in St. Louis. The struggle upon the question of opening the car window or not is char-acterised as the annual contest be-

A BUSINESS IN ALLIGATORS

on Between the Ci

To gain one's daily bread by means of alligators must be at all times a fairly precarious method of existence, and yet the colored man in Florida does manage to pick up many an honest penny by means of the American saurian. The taxidermist finds, 'too, in the alligator his opportunity; and though a ten-foot 'gator never can be very desirable, even when stuffed, little 'gators properly prepared and mounted are in good demand, and are brought home in quantity by the Northern tourist.

We need not find fault with nature, and tax her with having slighted us in

and tax her with having slighted us in the crocodileans. If in India there is the gavial, in Egypt there is the croco-dile, and in America the alligator and the cayman. It can hardly be quesnent both the crocodile and the alli-gator. The main point of difference, according to Mr. Hornaday, between the crocodile and the alligator is as follows: "A crocodile is distinguished by a triangular head, of which the snout is the apex. a narrow muzzle, and canine teeth in the lower jaw which pass freely upward in the notch-es in the side of the upper; whereas the alligator (also cayman or sacare) has a broad flat muzzle, and the canine teeth of the lower jaw fit into sockets in the under surface of the upper jaw."

The business of collecting the skins of alligators has already somewhat diminished the quantity of these sau-rians in certain parts of Florida, but they are still to be found in large num-bers further inland. It is barely sup-posable that ailigators never will become extinct in Florida while those vast interior lakes and swamps exist. A visit paid by a naturalist this year to Florida was convincing that alligators were still very abundant. To kill an

alligator, however, is by no means as difficult as to secure him. The 'gators' bask in the sun on the long stretches of sand, but they are never quite asleep. They always seem to be on their guard, and repose, never very far from the water, with their heads pointing in the direction of

flight. Gathering eggs requires some skill, because the saurian mother has a clever way of hiding her trail. Sometimes as many as forty eggs are found in a nest a few inches below the level. It is not the invariable habit of the mother to pack into the nest decayed vegetable matter in order to add to the heat. Generally the warmth of the

sun is sufficient.

The eggs have a slight musky flavor, and an experiment once made with an omelet of alligator eggs suffices. To eat 'gator is unknown, and endeavors in this direction have never been repeated. Mr. Hornaday tells, however, of having caten the South-American variety, where the feed was tish, and declares "that the flesh was white, tender, free from all disagreeable musky odors, and toothsome as the nicest roast yeal."

It is with due consideration of the size of the alligator as to whether you will take a seat on him or not. His jaws are not so much to be dreaded as

a lash of his tail. "Ky, mass! you no wantee fres' 'ga-tor dis mornin'?" is about the cry of the vender of baby alligators in Jacksonville, as he plunges his hand into a bucket swung on one arm, and hauls out a little ugly, squirming snapping monster. These little gators may have been found by their owners just emerging from their nests, or he may have secured them as eggs, and batched them out himself. The infant sauriaus show their natural instinct

early, and will bite at once. An alligator is a queer pet, and to tame an adult seems to be sible. If intelligence is proportioned to bulk of brain, that of the alligator is especially small. In dissecting a largesized alligator the brain substance will barely fill an egg-cup. We are not to look upon a 'gator as capable of any attachments. When young (after having had some of their teeth drawn) they are occasionally seen about

There are a few of the native taxidermists in Florida who devote a portion of their time to the preparation of specimens, and notably of little alligators. Generally, however, some one in the line of business who lives in a Northern city goes to Florida for the winter for his health, and carries out his calling by mounting young alligators. - Harper's Weekly.

## Royal Fish.

While old and wise heads of the United States and England are carrying on a dignified quarrel over the ownership of the seal in Behring Sea, let me tell you something about roya

You know that Kings and Queens have many rights and perogatives. Well, one of these perogatives of En-glish rulers in olden times related to oyal fish. Royal fish are sturgeon and whale, which are considered the finest of deep-sea fish. For this reason, "on account of their superior excellence," whenever one of these fish was thrown ashore or caught near the coast of England it became the property of the King. This seems very unjust to those who might secure the whale or stur-geon, for they were compelled to give it up without receiving any pay. Howclaiming these royal fish as his proper-ty, because it was he who guarded and rotected the seas from pirates and robbers, and in those days there were

very many of them.

The most peculiar feature of the custom of royal fish was this—that while the whole of the sturgeon be-longed to the King, only half of a whale did. For it was a prerogative, as it is called, of the Queen that the as it is called, of the Queen that the tail of every whale caught in the way I have told you was her property, while the head was only the King's. The reason for this division, as given by the old records, was to furnish the Queen's wardrobe with whalebone; and this reason is more amusing than the custom is peculiar, for the whalebone lies om is peculiar, for the whalebone lies entirely in the head of the whale. there are many more as strange and amusing customs recorded in England's

This right to royal fish was considered of great importance, and was carefully guarded for many generations. It was also a prerogative of the Kings of Denmark and the Dukes of Normandy, and from one of these it was probal derived by the Princes of England